



**SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER**  
***Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.®***  
***P.O. Box 264***  
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<http://www.brooks.af.mil/aaca/TAI.htm>

25 September 2002

MEMO TO SACTAI MEMBERS

FROM: Chapter President

SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Minutes for 5 September 2002

The San Antonio Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (sm), (SACTAI) met in the Tradition Room at the Randolph AFB Enlisted Club on 5 September 2002 at 7:00 p.m. The following individuals attended:

MSgt Marv Abrams  
SMSgt Booker Alexander  
TSgt Carol Alexander  
Capt Kerry Britt  
Capt Glenn Ford (guest)

Theodore Johnson (TAI-OM)  
Marie McGarity  
Maj Juliette Robinson  
Rick Sinkfield (LtCol/ret)  
Col Sarah J. Williams

- I. **OPENING AND WELCOME:** Col Williams opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with a prayer of thanks for Tuskegee Airmen past, present and future. A general welcome was followed by the immediate distribution of the previous month's meeting minutes.
- II. **INTRODUCTIONS:** All attendees introduced themselves.
- III. **PRESIDENT'S FORUM:** Col Williams thanked the members for their continued participation in chapter activities. Col Williams provided a brief overview of the chapter's initial Executive Strategic Planning meeting, held on 31 August 2002. Col Williams further stressed the chapter's overall goals of improving TAI-SAC visibility within the community, while increasing and sustaining an ACTIVE membership base of 100 or more.
- IV. **MEETING MINUTES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Col Williams asked all chapter members to keep (chapter vice-president) LtCol (retired) Ripley in their thoughts and prayers as he recovered from surgery. A get-well card was circulated for signatures and messages. On completion of announcements, minutes of the August 2002 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- V. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ms. McGarity provided a report of the chapter's financial status. Financial report was reviewed and approved.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Taste of New Orleans (TONO)**

- Committee chair, Douglas Washington, was not available for a report. Col Williams reported that Mr. Washington would be scheduling a committee meeting during September. (OPEN)

### **Golf Tournament**

- Mr. Sinkfield stated that a meeting would be held within the next month.

### **Educational Assistance Awards – Col Williams**

- Col Williams briefed that Col (retired) Clara Wallace, committee chairperson, and committee members will review updates to the national program and address several chapter award issues, including number of awards and financial amounts during an upcoming committee meeting. (OPEN)

### **Educational Assistance Award Banquet – Major Robinson/MSgt Abrams**

- MSgt Abrams and Major Robinson briefed the chapter on tentative details for next year's event, to be held 10 May 2003 at the Randolph Officer's Club. The 2003 National TAI theme for use in publicizing the banquet has not been established. (OPEN)

### **Membership**

- LtCol (ret) Ripley was not available. MSgt Abrams provided details of the chapter's Fall Social at the Randolph Officers Club on 25 October 2002. (OPEN)

### **Public Relations**

- Mr. Ricky Harrell, the chapter's Public Relations committee chairperson was unavailable.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **Safety Deposit Box**

- Col Williams reported the chapter's Bank of America safety deposit box had been closed. Although rental of the box was no longer needed, certain documents such as the chapter's papers of incorporation do require secure safekeeping. Motion was passed to purchase a fire security box. (CLOSED)

### **Web Registry**

- MSgt Abrams briefed those present on securing the "SACTAI.ORG" Internet address for an additional year for possible future web use. SMSgt Alexander volunteered to sponsor the next year registration. (OPEN)

### **Honorary Membership**

- Discussion on pursuing honorary memberships for the commander positions of the 99<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Squadron (Randolph) and 433<sup>rd</sup> Wing (Kelly) were tabled, pending additional information on related resolutions from the National Convention. (OPEN)

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

### 99<sup>th</sup> FTS “Heritage Hall” – Col Williams

- Col Williams briefed the chapter on continuing progress of the 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Training Squadron (FTS) project to research, develop, and construct an exhibit area within the 99<sup>th</sup> hangar to commemorate the Tuskegee Airmen and the Tuskegee Experience. Target timeframe for completion of the entire project, to include the possible dedication of the squadron’s auditorium to recently deceased General B. O. Davis, Jr. has been changed to March 2003. Centennial Flight Celebration funds have been requested to subsidize the project. Chapter emphasis is currently on locating and securing donated/loaned memorabilia, such as models, letters, medals, and other personal items. (OPEN)

### Standardized Dress Items – Maj Robinson/TSgt Alexander

- Major Robinson and TSgt Alexander addressed the chapter on results of their research on standardized dress items for chapter functions. Suggested colors for blazers were burgundy or gold with removable/detachable name badge. Additional research will be conducted on sources for the blazers and distinctive name badges. (OPEN)

## **IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

### Holiday Social – Major Robinson

- Major Robinson confirmed the chapter’s desire to hold a Holiday Social during December. Information on possible locations and costs will be presented to the chapter in future meetings. (OPEN)

### Convention Journal – Col Williams

- A copy of the 2002 TAI National Convention journal was distributed for review. Next year’s convention will be held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Denver, Colorado from 5-10 August 2003. (CLOSED)

### Item of Interest (False Tuskegee Airman) – Col Williams

- Col Williams briefed the chapter on John Carter Sr., who claimed to be an original Tuskegee Airman during a Memorial Day ceremony in Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Carter further stated he was shot down by German anti-aircraft fire over Belgium. Tuskegee Airmen Bill Holloman of Seattle read an article on Mr. Carter’s claims and contacted William Holton, national historian for TAI. Further investigation revealed that no Tuskegee Airmen flew over Belgium and exposed Mr. Carter’s story as a complete fabrication. (CLOSED)

X. **ADJOURNMENT:** The Chapter President, Col Williams, adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.

//APPROVED//

Sarah J. Williams, Colonel, USAF (retired)  
President, SAC-TAI  
(Recorded by MSgt Marv Abrams)